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SUBJ: ALBANIAN-YUGOSLAV RELATIONS

REF: ROME 1924

1. RECENT STATEMENT BY YUGOSLAV LEADERS SUGGEST THAT ALBANIAN-YUGOSLAV RELATIONS CONTINUE TO BE VERY STRAINED. THERE ARE FURTHER INDICATIONS THAT BILATERAL RELATIONS, WHICH SHOWED SOME POSSIBILITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT AFTER ENVER HOXHA'S NOV 3,1974 SPEECH, MAY BE DETERIORATING INSTEAD.

2. ANTI-IRREDENTIST STATEMENTS. CAMPAIGN AIMED AT GREATER ALBANIAN NATIONALISTS IN BOTH ALBANIA AND KOSOVO CONTINUES TO BUBBLE ALONG AT A LOW LEVEL. ALI SUKRIJA, LCY EXCOMM MEMBER, ATTACKED IRREDENTISTS AMONG OTHERS AS "ENEMIES OF SELF-MANAGEMENT" AT A 31 JAN MEETING IN PRISTINA. "ZERI IRINIS", A YUGOSLAV YOUTH MAGAZINE IN ALBANIAN, PUBLISHED ARTICLE IN FEB 4 EDITION CONDEMNING IRREDENTISM AS "A DIRTY BUSINESS....THE DARKEST FORM OF NATIONALISM" AND CONCLUDED THAT "HE WHO IN HIS ENEMY ACTIVITY COUNTS ON EXTERNAL SUPPORT IS A
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TRAITOR".

3. STATE OF RELATIONS. FADILJ HODZA, MEMBER OF THE STATE PRESIDENCY FOR KOSOVO, DECLARED IN PRISTINA FEB 3 THAT YUGOSLAVIA HAD DONE ALL IT COULD TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH ALBANIA, BUT THAT GOOD RELATIONS DEPENDED NOT JUST ON YUGOSLAV EFFORTS AND GOODWILL, BUT ON THOSE OF ALBANIA AS WELL. THIS STATEMENT, WHICH PUTS THE BURDEN OF FUTURE EFFORTS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS ON ALBANIA, IS IN MARKED CONTRAST WITH YUGOSLAV OFFICIAL STATEMENTS IN 1974 AND 1975 WHICH EXPRESSED ONLY A READINESS AND DESIRE FOR BETTER RELATIONS.

4. BILATERAL RELATIONS ALSO HAD TO BEAR ALBANIAN AMBASSADOR LAHMANI'S LOUD COMPLAINT TO A WESTERN AMBASSADOR ABOUT YUGOSLAV DECISION TO ALLOW SOVIET OVERFLIGHTS TO ANGOLA. WHETHER SAME NOISES MADE TO GOY DIRECTLY, WE DO NOT KNOW.

5. COMMENT: REASONS FOR PRESENT STRAINS IN YUGOSLAV-ALBANIAN RELATIONS ARE NOT HARD TO FIND BUT IT IS HARDER TO ASSIGN THEIR RELATIVE SIGNIFICANCE. AT LEAST SOME OF THE PROBLEMS IN BILATERALS CAN BE TRACED TO POLITICAL EVENTS INSIDE THE TWO COUNTRIES: ALBANIA'S INTERNAL CONVULSIONS (REFTEL), AND YUGOSLAVIA'S CAMPAIGN AGAINST HOSTILE FORCES WHICH HAS ENGULFED A NUMBER OF ETHNIC ALBANIANS ACCUSED OF BEING ADVOCATES OF ALBANIAN IRREDENTISM. THESE FACTORS OPERATE AGAINST A HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF YUGOSLAV DESIGNS ON ALBANIAN TERRITORY, ALBANIAN RAILING AGAINST YUGOSLAVIA'S BRAND OF SOCIALISM AND TIRANA'S CONVICTION THAT BELGRADE'S RELATIONS WITH THE US AND THE SOVIETS IS A FLIRTATION WITH BOTH SCYLLA AND CHARYBDIS. FOR THE PRESENT, THE PROGNOSIS IS NOT GOOD FOR AN IMPROVEMENT IN THEIR RELATIONS. SWEITZER

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